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EGYPT

The ex-Mufti and the Liberation Battalions

WASHINGTON ONLY

The following was obtained by our source [ ] from an official of the Young Men's Moslem Association

(i) The ex-Mufti of Jerusalem and Abdullah al Tal were constant visitors to the Young Men's Moslem Association premises in Cairo during the second week of November. Their visits were in connection with their efforts to organize a formation known as the Sacred Struggle Society in all Moslem countries, and with the recruitment of Palestinian refugees as a nucleus of this organization.

(ii) The ex-Mufti has given Aziz al Masri (Pasha) - the Commander of the "Liberation Battalions" - the sum of 20,000 Egyptian pounds to assist in the expansion of these "Battalions". When Salih Harb (Pasha) the President of the Y.M.M.A., heard of this he expressed strong resentment. As a result the ex-Mufti has promised to contribute a similar sum to the Y.M.M.A. official in charge of collecting contributions for the "Liberation Battalions".

(iii) Our source's informant believed that the ex-Mufti had obtained this large sum from Moslem countries such as Pakistan and Afghanistan and even from Russia.

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